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4 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SNIE II-9-59: Probable Soviet Position on Nuclear Weapons Testing

1. This estimate was requested by the Department of State by letter of 12 August, and we understand informally that it is desired by policy makers who are reformulating our disarmament position, and for guidance to the President in talks with Khrushchev on the subject of nuclear testing.

2. The estimate includes a non-Restricted Data Annex prepared by JAEIC. A Restricted Data version of the Annex will be separately bound.

3. There is one reservation in the Estimate, by the Army, expressed in several footnotes. The Army dissents to the estimate that the technical requirements for weapons progress do not "urgently require a continuation of testing," and they state that the Soviets do have "an essential requirement for testing in order to meet their basic military requirements." They agree, nonetheless, with the subsequent estimates that political

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and strategic considerations lead the Soviets to favor a complete test ban. There have been no other major disagreements among the community representatives in the coordination of this estimate.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH
Acting Chairman